Appendix B

Examples

Example 1 - Figure 7

In this example, the start of each item with the same start tab stop number is vertically aligned.

Item	Start tab	End tab	Align
1	100	-	No
2	-	-	-
3	200	-	No
4	100	-	No
5	200	-	No
6	100	-	No

Example 2 - Figure 8

In this example, the end of each item with the same end tab stop number is vertically aligned.

Item	Start tab	End tab	Align
1	-	10	No
2	-	-	-
3	-	20	No
4	-	10	No
5	-	20	No
6	-	10	No

Example 3 - Figure 9

In this example, the start and ends of items with the same start and end tab stop numbers are vertically aligned.

Item	Start tab	End tab	Align prompt
1	1000	1500	No
2	-	-	-
3	2000	2500	No
4	1000	1500	No
5	2000	2500	No
6	1000	1500	No

Example 4 - Figure 10

Items with the same Start Tab Stop and End Tab Stop properties are the width of the widest item with those properties. Thus, in this example, the system increases the widths of items 1 and 6 to be the same width as item 4, and increases the width of item 3 to be the same width as item 5.

Item	Start tab	End tab	Align
1	-	5	No
2	-	-	-
3	-	10	Yes
4	-	5	No
5	-	10	Yes
6	-	5	No

In this example:

- the ends of items with the same end tab stop number are vertically aligned
- the prompts of items are vertically aligned where items themselves are vertically aligned on the same tab stop number and those items' Align Prompt properties are set to Yes

Example 5 - Figure 11

In this example:

- the start of items in an item group with the same tab number are aligned
- the item group's Tab Stop Scope property is set to Self

Item	Start tab	End tab	Align
1	145	-	No
2	145	-	No
3	145	-	No

Note that although item 1 has the same start tab stop as items 2 and 3, it is not aligned with those items because the item group's Tab Stop Scope property is set to Self.

Example 6 - Figure 12

In this example:

- the start of items both inside and outside an item group with the same tab number are vertically aligned
- the item group's Tab Stop Scope property is set to Parent

Item	Start tab	End tab	Align
1	145	-	No
2	145	-	No
3	145	-	No

Example 7 - Figure 13

In this example:

- an item and an item group with the same start tab stop number are vertically aligned
- items within an item group with the same start tab stop number are vertically aligned

Item or	Start tab	End tab	Align prompt
1	30	-	No
2	35	-	No
3	35	-	No
A	30	-	-

Example 8 - Figure 14

Item group's Start Tab Stop property is set to 30.

In this example:

- items within an item group and items outside the item group with the same tab stop number are vertically aligned
- two item groups and an item with the same start tab stop number are vertically aligned
- the same value is specified for the Start Tab Stop property for items in two item groups, but the items are not aligned because the Tab Stop Scope property of one item group is set to Self

Item or Item Group	Start tab stop	End tab Stop	Align Prompt
1	30	-	No
2	35	-	No
3	35	-	No
4	35	-	No
5	35	-	No
6	35	-	No
7	35	-	No
A	30	-	-
B	30	-	-

Example 9 - Figure 15

The Tab Stop Scope property of item group A is set to Parent. The Tab Stop Scope property of item group B is set to Self.

In this example:

- multiple items and their prompts have been positioned using relative tab stops
- the Align prompt property of item 8 has been ignored to optimize the use of space

Item	Start tab	End tab	Align
1	100	-	No
2	-	300	No
3	100	300	No
4	100	-	-
5	-	200	Yes
6	100	-	-
7	-	200	Yes
8	-	300	Yes
9	100	-	-
10	-	200	Yes
11	100	-	-
12	-	200	Yes
13	100	-	-
14	-	200	Yes
15	100	300	-

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW

Figure 16, in an embodiment, is an alternate computer/processing system 720 for implementing the invention, which includes a host computer 722 connected to a plurality of individual user stations 724. In an embodiment, the user stations 724 each comprise suitable data terminals, for example, but not limited to, e.g., personal computers, portable laptop computers, or personal data assistants ("PDAs"), which can store and independently run one or more applications, i.e., programs. For purposes of illustration, some of the user stations 724 are connected to the host computer 722 via a local area network ("LAN") 726. Other user stations 724 are remotely connected to the host computer 722 via a public telephone switched network ("PSTN") 728 and/or a wireless network 730.

In an embodiment, the host computer 722 operates in conjunction with a data storage system 731, wherein the data storage system 731 contains a database 732 that is readily accessible by the host computer 722.

In alternative embodiments, the database 732 may be resident on the host computer, stored, e.g., in the host computer's ROM, PROM, EPROM, or any other memory chip, and/or its hard disk. In yet alternative embodiments, the database 732 may be read by the host computer 722 from one or more floppy disks, flexible disks, magnetic tapes, any other magnetic medium, CD-ROMs, any other optical medium, punchcards, papertape, or any other physical medium with patterns of holes, or any other medium from which a computer can read.

In an alternative embodiment, the host computer 722 can access two or more databases 732, stored in a variety of mediums, as previously discussed.

Referring to Figure 17, in an embodiment, each user station 724 and the host computer 722, each referred to generally as a processing unit, embodies a general architecture 805. A processing unit includes a bus 806 or other communication mechanism for communicating instructions, messages and data, collectively, information, and one or more processors 807 coupled with the bus 806 for processing information. A processing unit also includes a main memory 808, such as a random access memory (RAM) or other dynamic storage device, coupled to the bus 806 for storing dynamic data and instructions to be executed by the processor(s) 807. The main memory 808 also may be used for storing temporary data, i.e., variables, or other intermediate information during execution of instructions by the processor(s) 807.

A processing unit may further include a read only memory (ROM) 809 or other static storage device coupled to the bus 806 for storing static data and instructions for the processor(s) 807. A storage device 810, such as a magnetic disk or optical disk, may also be provided and coupled to the bus 806 for storing data and instructions for the processor(s) 807.

A processing unit may be coupled via the bus 806 to a display device 811, such as, but not limited to, a cathode ray tube (CRT), for displaying information to a user. An input device 812, including alphanumeric and other keys, is coupled to the bus 806 for communicating information and command selections to the processor(s) 807. Another type of user input device may include a cursor control 813, such as, but not limited to, a mouse, a trackball, a fingerpad, or cursor direction keys, for communicating direction

information and command selections to the processor(s) 807 and for controlling cursor movement on the display 811.

According to one embodiment of the invention, the individual processing units perform specific operations by their respective processor(s) 807 executing one or more sequences of one or more instructions contained in the main memory 808. Such instructions may be read into the main memory 808 from another computer-usable medium, such as the ROM 809 or the storage device 810. Execution of the sequences of instructions contained in the main memory 808 causes the processor(s) 807 to perform the processes described herein. In alternative embodiments, hard-wired circuitry may be used in place of or in combination with software instructions to implement the invention. Thus, embodiments of the invention are not limited to any specific combination of hardware circuitry and/or software.

The term "computer-usable medium," as used herein, refers to any medium that provides information or is usable by the processor(s) 807. Such a medium may take many forms, including, but not limited to, non-volatile, volatile and transmission media. Non-volatile media, i.e., media that can retain information in the absence of power, includes the ROM 809. Volatile media, i.e., media that can not retain information in the absence of power, includes the main memory 808. Transmission media includes coaxial cables, copper wire and fiber optics, including the wires that comprise the bus 806. Transmission media can also take the form of carrier waves; i.e., electromagnetic waves that can be modulated, as in frequency, amplitude or phase, to transmit information signals.

Additionally, transmission media can take the form of acoustic or light waves, such as those generated during radio wave and infrared data communications.

Common forms of computer-usable media include, for example: a floppy disk, flexible disk, hard disk, magnetic tape, any other magnetic medium, CD-ROM, any other optical medium, punchcards, papertape, any other physical medium with patterns of holes, RAM, ROM, PROM (i.e., programmable read only memory), EPROM (i.e., erasable programmable read only memory), including FLASH-EPROM, any other memory chip or cartridge, carrier waves, or any other medium from which a processor 807 can retrieve information.

Various forms of computer-usable media may be involved in providing one or more sequences of one or more instructions to the processor(s) 807 for execution. For example, the instructions may initially be provided on a magnetic disk of a remote computer (not shown). The remote computer may load the instructions into its dynamic memory and then transit them over a telephone line, using a modem. A modem local to the processing unit may receive the instructions on a telephone line and use an infrared transmitter to convert the instruction signals transmitted over the telephone line to corresponding infrared signals. An infrared detector (not shown) coupled to the bus 806 may receive the infrared signals and place the instructions therein on the bus 806. The bus 806 may carry the instructions to the main memory 808, from which the processor(s) 807 thereafter retrieves and executes the instructions. The instructions received by the main memory 808 may optionally be stored on the storage device 810, either before or after their execution by the processor(s) 807.

Each processing unit may also include a communication interface 814 coupled to the bus 806. The communication interface 814 provides two-way communication between the respective user stations 724 and the host computer 722. The communication interface 814 of a respective processing unit transmits and receives electrical, electromagnetic or optical signals that include data streams representing various types of information, including instructions, messages and data.

A communication link 815 links a respective user station 724 and a host computer 722. The communication link 815 may be a LAN 726, in which case the communication interface 814 may be a LAN card. Alternatively, the communication link 815 may be a PSTN 728, in which case the communication interface 814 may be an integrated services digital network (ISDN) card or a modem. Also, as a further alternative, the communication link 815 may be a wireless network 730.

A processing unit may transmit and receive messages, data, and instructions, including program, i.e., application, code, through its respective communication link 815 and communication interface 814. Received program code may be executed by the respective processor(s) 807 as it is received, and/or stored in the storage device 810, or other associated non-volatile media, for later execution. In this manner, a processing unit may receive messages, data and/or program code in the form of a carrier wave.

In the foregoing specification, the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments thereof. It will, however, be evident that various modifications and changes may be made thereto without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention. For example, the reader is to understand that the specific ordering and

combination of process actions shown in the process flow diagrams described herein is merely illustrative, and the invention can be performed using different or additional process actions, or a different combination or ordering of process actions. The specification and drawings are, accordingly, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than restrictive sense.